Exports

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Reference date: **December 2016** Issue: **#16-12** Released: **February 7, 2017**

- B.C. exports increased 9.8% from 2015 to 2016.
- Solid wood product exports climbed 19.2% in 2016.
- Energy product exports jumped 29.5% in value in 2016.

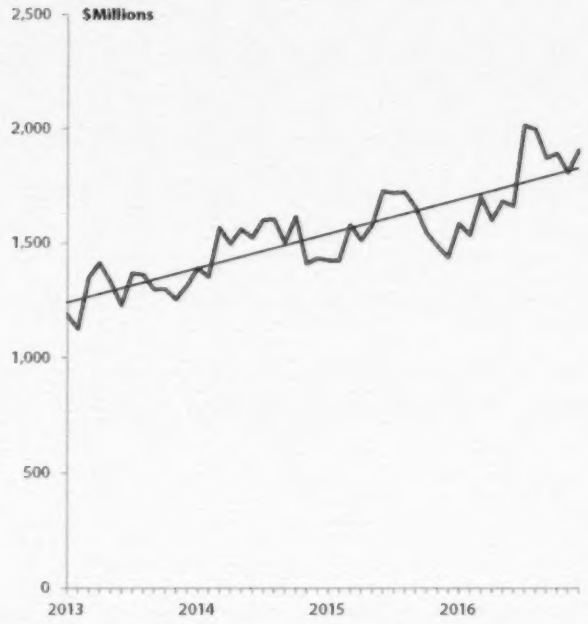
By Destination

The value of B.C. origin exports climbed 9.8% from 2015 to 2016. There was robust growth to B.C.'s top export destination, the United States (+12.9%), and there was also double-digit growth to South Korea (+18.8%), the European Union (+10.9%), Taiwan (+12.3%) and India (+29.7%). Exports to Mainland China (+2.5%) and Japan (+3.2%) grew at a more modest pace, while shipments to Australia (-12.3%) and Mexico (-47.9%) saw sharp declines.

By Commodity

The value of energy products exported from B.C. jumped 29.5% in 2016, driven mainly by a 44.4% jump in shipments of natural gas and a 33.2% rise in exports of coal. Exports of electricity (+1.3%) and other energy products (+6.5%) also increased. For coal, most of the growth was due to higher prices, as the volume of coal shipped climbed only 0.7%.

B.C.'s exports to the U.S. experienced strong growth in 2016



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

There was a 19.2% rise in exports of solid wood products in 2016. Shipments of softwood lumber (+19.5%), logs (+15.8%), selected value added wood products (+16.0%), softwood plywood and veneer (+4.6%), other panel products (+25.0%), cedar shakes and shingles (+8.2%) and other solid wood products (+41.4%) all increased.

Elsewhere in the forest sector, pulp and paper shipments declined 9.9%. Exports of pulp (-9.2%), newsprint (-36.7%) and other paper and paperboard (-9.2%) all fell, although shipments of other pulp and paper products bucked the trend, climbing 13.5%.

Exports of machinery and equipment stalled in 2016, edging up only 0.1% as strong growth in shipments of motor vehicles and parts (+27.3%) and scientific, photographic and measuring equipment (+8.4%) was mostly offset by drops in exports of electrical, electronic and communications products (-7.9%), aircraft and parts (-16.2%) and other machinery and equipment (-2.9%).

Exports of metallic mineral products climbed 8.8% in 2016, led by a 312.1% jump in shipments of unwrought aluminum. This more than four-fold increase was due to the newly expanded Rio Tinto Alcan aluminum smelter in Kitimat ramping up to full production. Shipments of unwrought lead (+25.2%) and unwrought zinc (+3.2%) also expanded; however, there were declines in exports of copper ores and concentrates (-8.6%), molybdenum ores and concentrates (-11.2%), zinc ores and concentrates (-100%) and other metallic mineral products (-50.3%). Exports of fabricated metal products fell 1.4%.

There was a 6.4% boost in shipments of agriculture and food shipments in 2016, and exports of fish products surged 17.7%. Exports of chemicals and chemical products dropped 6.5%, while shipments of plastics and articles of plastic grew 8.5%.

Seasonally Adjusted Exports

Seasonal adjustment provides a means of making month-to-month comparisons by removing the periodic seasonal fluctuations that occur. Variations from normal seasonal patterns are revealed in the seasonally adjusted series.

The value of B.C.'s commodity exports rose 2.3% in December as strong growth in shipments of energy products (+11.4%) and farm, fishing and intermediate food products (+26.0%) offset significant declines in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials (-3.5%), metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-10.2%), metal and non-metallic mineral products (-4.6%) and electronic and electrical equipment and parts (-8.8%).

Exports to the United States climbed 5.4%, while shipments to the rest of the world dipped 0.9%. Export growth to the U.S. was driven largely by a 32.5% boost in shipments of energy products. Large declines in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials (-7.0%) and metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-10.1%) dragged down overall exports to the rest of the world.

Visit the exports and imports page on the BC Stats website.

Did You Know?

Softwood lumber remains B.C.'s top valued export with over $6.9 billion worth shipped in 2016, representing just over a quarter of the total value of B.C.'s exports. The majority of B.C.'s lumber exports is destined for the United States, at almost $4.6 billion in 2016, or 66% of total softwood lumber exported.

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